

*The Order of Vespers  
for the Sunday of Forgiveness  
(Cheesefare Sunday)*

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

*Psalm tone:*

**Response:**   
A - men. \* -

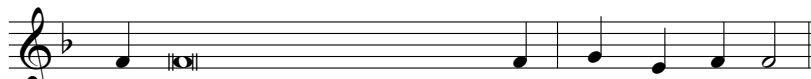
Glory to you, our God,  
glory *to* you.

Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth,  
everywhere present and filling all things,  
Treasury of Blessings and Giver of Life,  
come and dwell within us,  
cleanse us from all stain,  
and save our souls, O *gracious* One.

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal,  
have mercy *on* us. (*3 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen*.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
Master, forgive our transgressions;  
Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities for *your* name's sake.

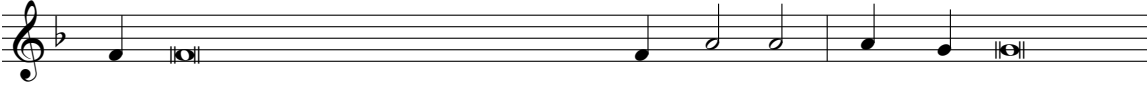
  
Lord, have mercy. Lord have mer-cy. Lord have mer-cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen*.


Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us *from* evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.



Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord,



have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. (*sung twice*)

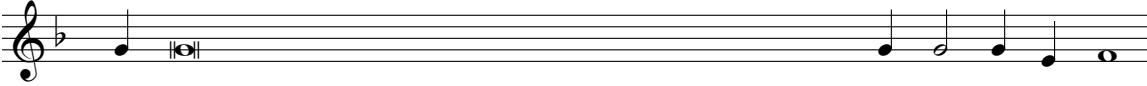
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. Amen.

### Call to Worship

*Each time with a reverence:*



Come, let us worship our King and God. Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.



Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

### Psalm 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord my God, how great *you* are,

clothed in majesty and glory,  
wrapped in light as in *a* robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent.  
Above the rains you build *your* dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,  
you walk on the wings of *the* wind;

you make your angels spirits  
and your ministers a flaming fire.

You founded the earth on its base,  
to stand firm from age *to* age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak:  
the waters stood higher than *the* mountains.

At your threat they took to flight;  
at the voice of your thunder *they* fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down  
to the place which you had *appointed*.

You set limits they might not pass  
lest they return to cover *the* earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;  
they flow in between *the* hills.

They give drink to all the beasts of the field;  
the wild asses quench *their* thirst.

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;  
from the branches they sing *their* song.

From your dwelling they water the hills;  
earth drinks its fill of *your* gift.

You make the grass grow for the cattle  
and the plants to serve *man's* needs,

that he may bring forth bread from the earth  
and wine to cheer *man's* heart;

oil, to make his face shine  
and bread to strengthen *man's* heart.

The trees of the Lord drink their fill,  
the cedars he planted *on* Lebanon;  
there the birds build their nests;  
on the treetop the stork has *her* home.

The goats find a home on the mountains  
and rabbits hide in *the* rocks.

You made the moon to mark the months;  
the sun knows the time for *its* setting.

When you spread the darkness it is night  
and all the beasts of the forest *creep* forth.

The young lions roar for their prey  
and ask their food *from* God.

At the rising of the sun they steal away  
and go to rest in *their* dens.

Man goes out to his work,  
to labor till *evening* falls.

How many are your works, O Lord!  
In wisdom you have made them all.  
The earth is full of *your* riches.

There is the sea, vast and wide,  
with its moving swarms past counting,  
living things great *and* small.

The ships are moving there,  
and the monsters you made *to* play with.

All of these look to you  
to give them their food in *due* season.

You give it, they gather it up;  
you open your hand, they have *their* fill.

You hide your face, they are dismayed;  
you take back your spirit, they die,  
returning to the dust from which *they* came.



## Litany of Peace

**Deacon:** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



1. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls,  
let us pray to the Lord.



2. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God,  
and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence,  
and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop,  
(*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the  
clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For our government and for all in the service of our country,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them,  
let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)


**Deacon:** That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (1)

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy. (2)

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:**   
To you, O Lord.

*The faithful stand.*

**Priest:** Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - men.

*Please turn to the insert for the Lamp-lighting psalms  
and the hymnody proper to this Sunday.*

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

### Hymn of the Evening



O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,  
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have  
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise  
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the  
Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

## Evening Prokeimenon

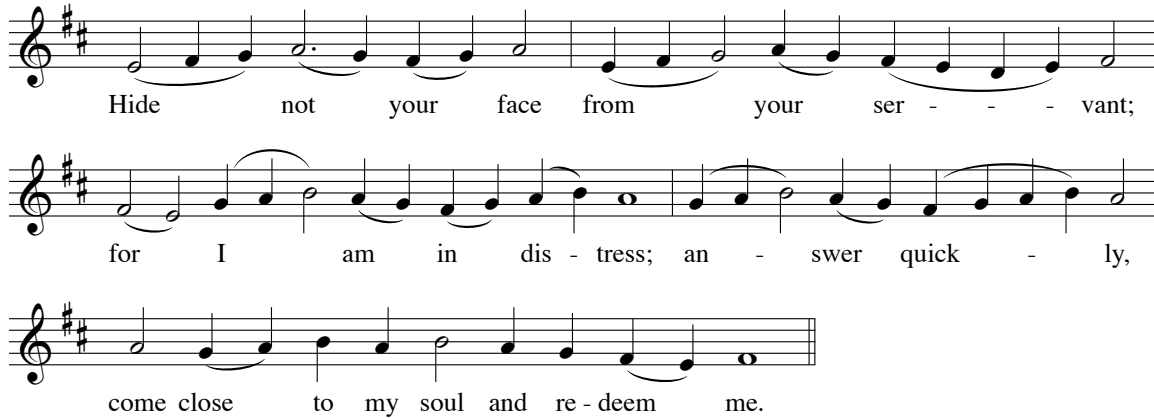
**Deacon:** Let us be attentive!

**Priest:** Peace ✠ be to all!

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Be attentive!

*The verses of the Prokeimenon are sung either by the Deacon or by the Priest.*

### *Prokeimenon for Cheese-fare (Forgiveness) Sunday*



Hide not your face from your ser - - - vant;  
for I am in dis - tress; an - swer quick - ly,  
come close to my soul and re - deem me.

**Verse:** Let your saving help, O God, protect me.

**Verse:** See, you lowly ones, and be glad.

**Verse:** You who seek God, may your hearts be merry.

## Hymn of Glorification



Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of *our* fathers,  
and praiseworthy and glorious is your name *forever*. Ämen  
May your mercy, O Lord, be *upön* us  
because we have *placed* our hope in you.

(each time with a reverence:)

❖ Blessed *are* you, O Lord,  
teach me *your* commändments.  
❖ Blessed are you, *O* Mäster,  
make me understand *your* commändments.  
❖ Blessed are you, *O* Holy One,  
enlighten me with *your* commändments.  
O Lord, your mercy is *forever*;  
despise *not* the work of your hands.  
To you is due praise, to you *is* due a hymn;  
to *you* is glory due.  
Father, ❖ Son, and *Holy* Spirit,  
now and ever *and* forever. Amen.

*The faithful are seated*

## Litany of Supplication

**Deacon:** Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord




**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God,  
by your grace.

**Response:**   
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

**Deacon:** That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin,  
let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:**   
3. Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies,  
let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:**   
4. Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses,  
let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world,  
let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord (4)

**Deacon:** That we spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance,  
let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (3)

**Deacon:** For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a  
good account before the fearsome judgement seat of Christ,  
let us beseech the Lord.

**Response:** Grant this, O Lord. (4)


**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:**   
To you, O Lord.

*The faithful stand.*

**Priest:** Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of Mankind, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are gracious and you love mankind, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - - - - men.

**Priest:** Peace ✠ be to all!

**Response:**   
And to your spir - it.

**Deacon:** Bow your heads to the Lord!

**Response:**   
 To you, O Lord.

**Priest:** Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love mankind. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
 A - - - - men.

### Aposticha

*Tone 4*

① & ②   
 The light of your grace has shone upon our souls, O Lord. Be - hold, this is the

favorable time, the sea-son of con - ver - sion. Let us turn away from the works

of dark - ness, and let us clothe ourselves with the ar - mor of light,

so that cross-ing the o - cean of the Fast, we may come to the harbor of the

Resurrection on the third day with our Lord Je - sus Christ, the Sav - ior

of our souls.

**Cantor:** To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens;  
 my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords.  
 Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of her mistress,  
 so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he show us his mercy.  
*Repeat "The light of your grace..."*

**Cantor:** Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt.  
 Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain.

You are glorified in the memory of your saints, O Christ God. Through their

in - ter - ces - sions, send up - on us great mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Glory...now and ever...

**Theotokion**

The choir of angels glorifies you, O most pure Vir - gin, for you have given

birth to our God, co - eternal with the Father and the Ho - ly Spir - it, through

whom the angelic armies were brought forth from noth - ing - ness. Be - seech

him to send the light of sal - va - tion up - on the souls who profess

the true faith prais - ing you as the Moth - er of our God.

### Prayer of St. Simeon

Now you may dis-miss *your* ser - vant, O Lord, in peace ac - cord - ing to your word.

for my eyes have seen your *salv*ation  
 which you have prepared before the face *of* all pöoples,  
 a light for revelation to *the* Göntiles,  
 and the glory of your *people* Ísrael.

### Trisagion Prayers

Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and *Imm*örtal,  
 have *mercy* ön us. (*3 times*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the *Holy* Spírit,  
 now and ever *and* forever. Amen.

Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us;  
 Lord, cleanse us of our sins;  
 Master, forgive our *transgr*ëssions,  
 Holy One, come to us and heal our infirmities *for* your näme's sake.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, \*  
now and ever **and** forever. Amen.


Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into **temptation**, \*  
but deliver **us** from evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.


**Response:**   
A - - - - men.

### Dismissal for Fasts


*After the Prayer of St. Simeon and the Trisagion Prayers,  
the following Troparia are sung in Tone 4:*




Re-joyce, O Vir-gin The-o-to - kos! Mar-y full of grace, the Lord is



with you! Bless-ed are you a-mong wo - men, and bless-ed is the

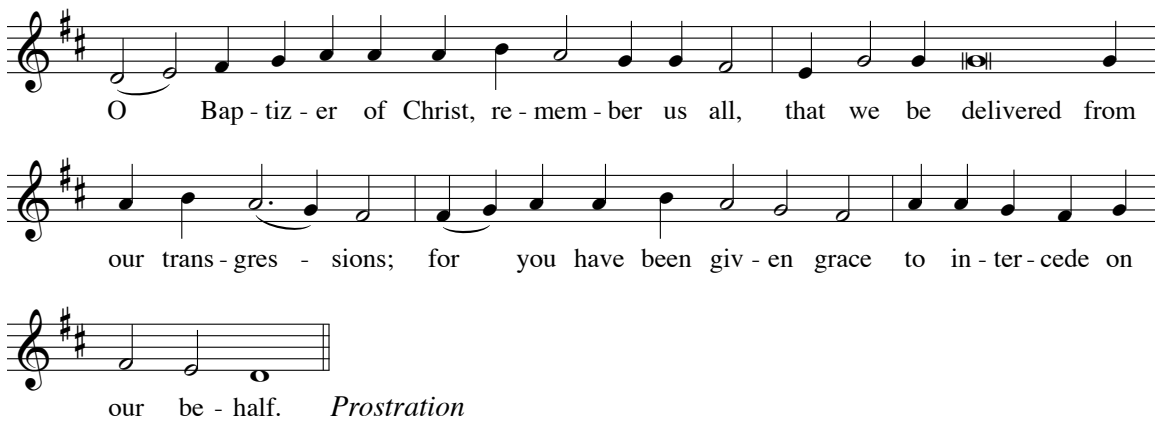


fruit of your womb. For you gave birth to Christ, the Sav-ior and Re-deem-er



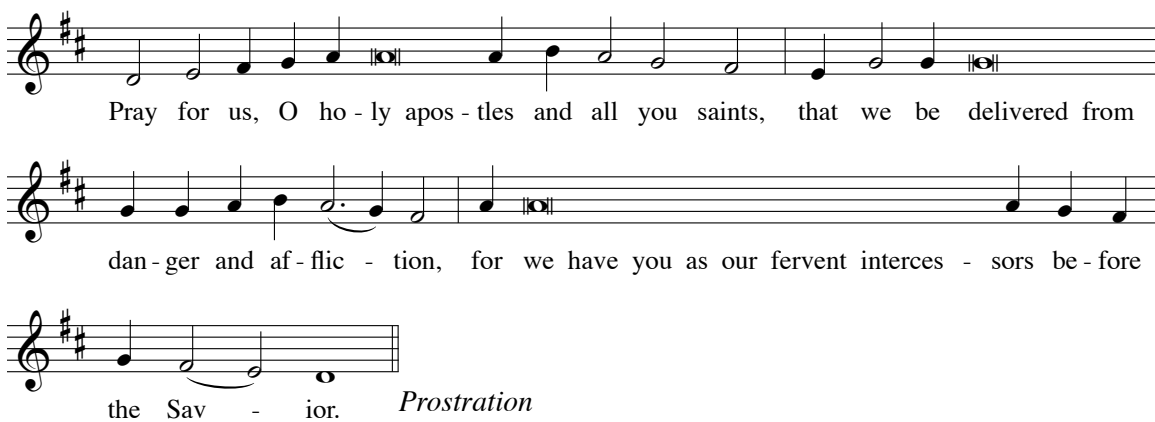
of our souls. *Prostration*

**Cantor:** Glory...



O Bap-tiz-er of Christ, re-mem-ber us all, that we be delivered from  
our trans-gres-sions; for you have been giv-en grace to in-ter-cede on  
our be-half. *Prostration*

**Cantor:** Now and ever and forever. Amen.

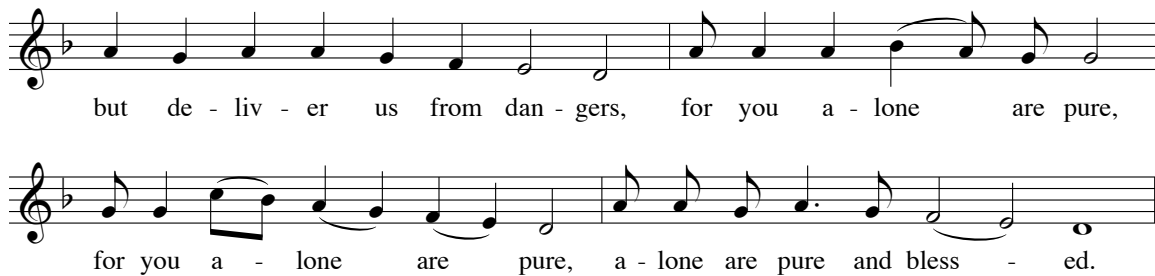


Pray for us, O ho-ly apos-tles and all you saints, that we be delivered from  
dan-ger and af-flic-tion, for we have you as our fervent interces-sors be-fore  
the Sav-ior. *Prostration*

**podoben: Pod tvoju milost' (1)**

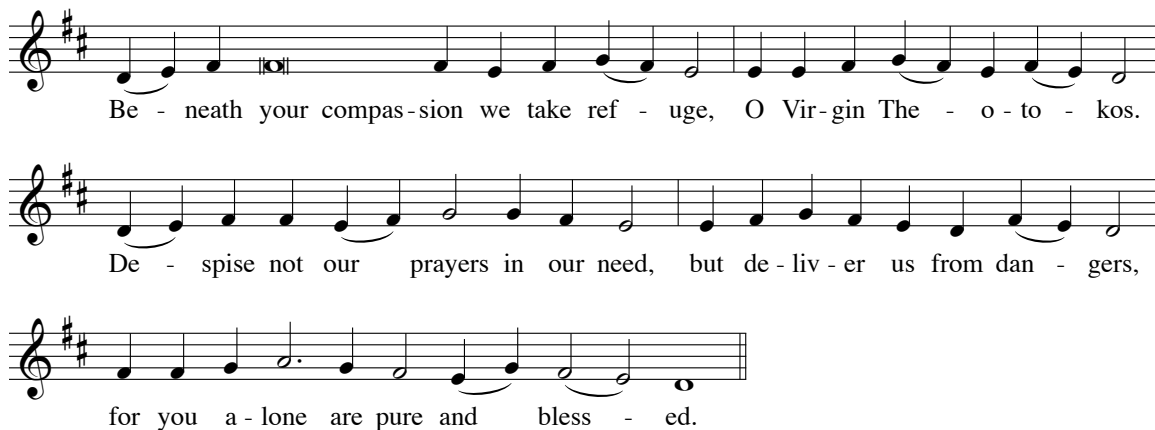


Be-neath your com-pas-sion we take ref-uge, O Vir-gin  
The-o-to-kos. De-spise not our prayers, our prayers in our need,



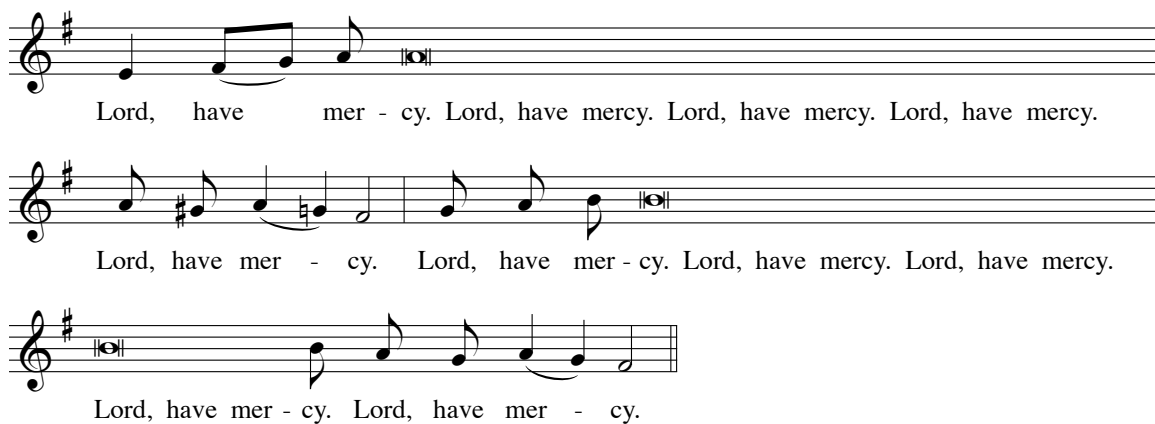
but de - liv - er us from dan - gers, for you a - lone are pure,  
 for you a - lone are pure, a - lone are pure and bless - ed.

*or* **podoben: Pod tvoju milost' (2)**



Be - neath your compas-sion we take ref - uge, O Vir-gin The - o - to - kos.  
 De - spise not our prayers in our need, but de - liv - er us from dan - gers,  
 for you a - lone are pure and bless - ed.

*The following is sung four times:*



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.  
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Give the bles - sing.

**Priest:** Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**

A - - - - men.

**Priest:** King of heaven, support our civil authorities, confirm the faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world and safeguard this city (*or* this holy monastery), grant those who have gone before us a dwelling place among the righteous, accept us in repentance and have mercy, for you are good and love us all.

**Response:**

A - - - - men.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the *Holy* Spirit, now and ever *and* forever. Amen.

More honorable than *the* Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious *than* the Seraphim, who, a virgin, gave birth *to* God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

In *the* name of the Lord, Father, *give* the blessing.

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. **Amen.**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us **from** evil.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom and the power and glory,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:**   
A - - - - men.

**Priest:** All-holy Trinity, consubstantial power, indivisible Kingdom, and Cause  
of all good, be favorable even to me, a sinner. Give strength and  
understanding to my heart; cleanse me of all defilement, and enlighten  
my mind, that I may always glorify, praise and worship you, saying:  
One is holy, one is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father, amen.

**Response:** (*sung three times*)

  
❖ Bless - ed be the name of the Lord, now and for - ev - er.

### Psalm 33

*The verses of this psalm are alternated between cantor and faithful.*

I will bless the Lord at all times,  
his praise **always** on my lips;  
in the Lord my soul shall make its boast.  
The **humble** shall hear and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.  
Together let *us* praise his name.  
I sought the Lord and he answered me;  
from all my *terrors* he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;  
let your *faces* not be abashed.  
This poor man called, the Lord heard him  
and rescued *him* from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,  
around those who revere him, *to* rescue them.  
Taste and see that the Lord is good.  
He is happy *who* seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.  
They lack nothing, those who *revere* him.  
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry  
but those who seek the Lord *lack* no blessing.

Come, children, and hear me  
that I may teach you *the* fear of the Lord.  
Who is he who longs for life  
and many days, to enjoy *his* prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil  
and your lips *from* speaking deceit.  
Turn aside from evil and do good;  
seek *and* strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked  
to destroy their remem*brance* from the earth.  
The Lord turns his eyes to the just  
and his *ears* to their appeal.

They call and the Lord hears  
and rescues them *in* all their distress.  
The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;  
those whose *spirit* is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just man  
 but from them all the Lord **will** rescue him.  
 He will keep guard over all his bones,  
 not one of his bones **shall** be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;  
 those who hate **the** good are doomed.  
 The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.  
 Those who hide in **him** shall not be condemned.

It is truly proper to glorify you, who **have** borne God,  
 the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the **Mother** of our God.  
 More honorable than **the** Cherubim,  
 and beyond compare more glorious **than** the Seraphim,  
 who, a virgin, gave birth **to** God the Word;  
 you, truly the Mother of **God**, we magnify!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
 now and ever **and** forever. Amen.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



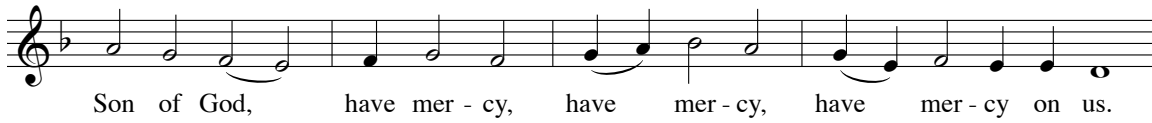
Give the bles - sing.

**Priest:** May Christ our true God have mercy on us and save us  
 through the prayers of his most pure Mother,  
 through the protection of the honorable, heavenly, bodiless powers;  
 through the prayers of the holy (*Name*), (*to whom this church is dedicated,*)  
 and (*Name*), (*whose feast we celebrate today*)  
 and through the prayers of all the saints;  
 for he is gracious and loves us all.

**Response:** 

A - - - - men.

## Having suffered (Preterpivyj)



## The Ceremony of Mutual Forgiveness

*The priest comes to the ambon, faces the faithful, and says:*

**Priest:** Good brothers and sisters,  
grant me your blessing  
and pardon me all the wrongs I have done this day,  
in word or deed or thought,  
with all my spiritual and bodily faculties.

**Response:** May God himself forgive you, Reverend Father,  
and have mercy on you!

Bless us, Reverend Father,  
and forgive us the wrongs that we have done this day,  
in word or deed or thought,  
with each of our spiritual and bodily faculties.

**Priest:** Through his grace, may God forgive you also,  
and may he have mercy on you all!

*After this exchange, the faithful come forward individually, make a reverence, and say to the priest:*

Forgive me, a sinner.

*to which the priest responds:*

May God forgive you.

*During the exchange of mutual forgiveness, the cantors and choir sing the Paschal Canon quietly.*

*When the mutual exchange is finished, the priest sings:*

**Priest:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and save us.

**Response:**  A - - - - men.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F#5, a quarter note G5, and a final whole note G4. A slur covers the notes from A4 to G5. The lyrics 'A - - - - men.' are written below the staff, with the first 'A' aligned under the first note and 'men.' under the final note.